

K Saint Ives, Port of

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THE
C A S E
OF THE
P O R T of SAINT IVES,
in the County of CORNWALL.

*S*AINTE IVES is the most western Port in the *North* or *Bristol* Channel, situate about Twelve Miles within *Cape Cornwall* or the *Land's End*.

The Point or Head of Land of *Saint Ives*, called the *Island*, to the opposite Shore, is about Three Miles, and composes a Bay about Two Miles deep, where Ships can ride as safely as in any Road in the Kingdom, the Ground being a stiff, holding Clay; and when the Wind blows in Shore (which is the only dangerous one) the Anchors draw against the Hill, and were never known to come Home.

The present Pier at *Saint Ives* was built for the Protection of the fishing Craft; but is now in a very ruinous State, and indeed if it was in perfect Repair, would be capable of containing only a very few Vessels.

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The nearest Place of Safety in the *North* Channel to *Saint Ives*, for Ships in bad Weather, is *Milford Haven*, which is about Twenty-eight Leagues distant, and in strong northerly Winds is scarcely possible to be attained.

It is proposed to build a new Pier, which, completed, will contain several hundred Vessels of very great Burden, the Flood at Neap Tides being Fifteen, and at common Spring Tides Twenty-six Feet at the intended Pier Head.

This Undertaking will be of very great Importance to Commerce in general, particularly to Homeward-bound Vessels, since the Indraught of *Bristol* Channel, and the great Variation of the Compass, which yearly increases, and the almost continued Fogs in the Chaps of the Channel, occasion those Ships to be frequently driven to the Northward of *Scilly*, and have no Possibility of being sheltered on the *English* Coast; and very often, for Want of a Harbour in the *North* Channel, it happens, that Ships are obliged to put into the Island of *Scilly*, where Provisions are sometimes extremely scarce; besides, in that Situation, the Masters cannot give any Intelligence to their Owners; whereas at *Saint Ives* they would not only be furnished with Plenty of Provisions, but could satisfy their Owners of their Safety by the General Post, which reaches *London* from thence in Four Days.

It is further to be observed, that the Bay of *Saint Ives* is always easy of Access, whereas the Navigation to *Scilly* is very dangerous, and *Milford Haven*, by reason of the Narrowness of its Mouth, is difficult to attain.

As the proposed Pier will be of the greatest Utility to Trade in general, by affording Protection to Ships in Distress trading to foreign Parts, at present, in Times of Danger, obliged to keep the Seas, or bear away for distant Ports, a Necessity very frequently productive of melancholy Instances of Loss; so it will also be of very great Advantage to coasting Vessels trading from the *North* to the *South*, and from the *South* to the *North* Channels, by their always finding Safety at *Saint Ives*.

In order to effect the above Design upon the best Terms and most certain Principles, Mr. *Smeaton* has viewed the Premises, and estimated the Expence of completing the Work at about Ten thousand Pounds; the Interest whereof, together with the present annual Sums payable in respect of the present Pier, will be answered and defrayed by a Tonnage of One Half-penny *per* Ton upon all Vessels trading to foreign Parts and Coastwise, to be paid Once in the Year only.

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